Committee Workshop on California-Mexico Border Energy Issues
May 18, 2005
Workshop Questions

Priority Questions

1. What do you recommend as priority policy actions, new initiatives, or programs to address environmental, economic, and infrastructure barriers involved with energy use and development in the California-Mexico border area?

2. Do you have any comments, suggested revisions, or questions about the white papers?

Other Questions

Energy Supply and Demand

3. Will the California-Mexico border area (San Diego, Imperial Valley, and Baja California) have enough electricity capacity to avoid blackouts and provide reliable service in the near-term (2012) and long-term (2020)? Where are the likely locations for new or refurbished power plants? What has to occur to ensure continued reliability?

4. What options are available within the California-Mexico border region to fulfill San Diego Gas and Electric Company's renewable portfolio standard goals? What barriers may impede fulfilling these goals? What are the costs and benefits of each option? How much renewable energy sources are realistically available in the border area?

5. Under what conditions and circumstances could renewable energy from Baja California contribute to SDG&E's renewable portfolio goal?

6. To what extent could energy efficiency improvements and/or industrial cogeneration play a role in electricity demand reduction in the California-Mexico border region? What is the market potential for these types of projects in the border area?

7. What barriers impede the development of industrial cogeneration and energy efficiency improvements in the California-Mexico border area?

8. What are the environmental and economic costs and benefits of increasing the use of renewable energy, industrial cogeneration and energy efficiency in the California-Mexico border area?

9. What options exist to fulfill the CPUC's demand side management requirements in SDG&E's service area?

Transmission Lines

10. Could ratepayers in San Diego or throughout California pay for transmission line upgrades in Baja California that benefit California?

11. What option offers the optimum benefits and lowest costs: (1) Build combined-cycle power plants in Baja California and new or upgraded transmission lines to deliver electricity into California, or (2) Build/upgrade natural gas pipelines from Baja California through San Diego to Los Angeles and construct combined-cycle power plants near the population (electric load) centers? What are the impacts to renewable energy options and demand reduction potential? Are these mutually exclusive options?

Natural Gas Supply and Pipelines

12. What is the impact of reversing natural gas flow in the Baja California, San Diego, and Southern California region that would result from new LNG facilities in Baja? How will this shift impact fuel supply for new or refurbished power plants, need for transmission lines and natural gas pipelines and renewable energy projects?

13. How can natural gas from LNG facilities be made available for potential industrial cogeneration projects in industrial facilities that do not currently have access to natural gas?

Transportation

14. What are the plans for expanding rail service for cargo movement in the California-Mexico border region?
    -status, costs, lead agency

15. What percentage of the goods produced in the border area are transported to regional ports and airports and how much of the cargo is destined for California, other states or other countries?

16. Can you provide information about the plans to build a port at Punta Colonet in Baja California and connect it with new rail lines to California?

17. What are the environmental and economic benefits of shifting from truck to rail for goods movement, and shifting from the use of diesel to LNG and CNG in trains?

18. Is the expansion of aviation shipment of goods a viable alternative?

19. What are the plans for building new airports or expansion of cargo space at existing airports to handle increased goods movement?

20. What are the barriers that impede implementation of these goods movement options?

21. Is there a need for new or expanded bi-national cooperation between government agencies and other entities to facilitate planning decisions or actions related to transportation?

22. What recommendations do you have for state and other agencies on both sides of the border to address energy related issues, such as transportation-related air quality and traffic congestion impacts?

Bi-National Cooperation

23. How can we stimulate increased investments in renewable energy, industrial cogeneration, cross border transmission lines, and energy efficiency projects to maximize our use of clean energy technologies in the California-Mexico area?

24. What actions would be necessary to introduce cross border emission trading to reduce air pollution problems?

25. What role might greenhouse gas emission reduction credits play in reducing border area air pollutants?

26. What steps should be taken to improve bi-national energy planning and permitting?